

RECORD OF ORAL HEARING

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

BEFORE THE BOARD OF PATENT APPEALS
AND INTERFERENCES

Ex parte LLOYD A. ADAMS and HANI YAKAN

Appeal 2006-2042
Application 09/366,135
Technology Center 3600

Oral Hearing Held: October 25, 2007

22 Before MURRIEL CRAWFORD, LINDA E. HORNER, (telephonically).

23 JOSEPH A. FISCHETTI, Administrative Patent Judges

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25
26ON BEHALF OF THE APPELLANT:

STEPHEN T. SCHREINER, ESQUIRE
KERRY OWENS, ESQUIRE
Goodwin Proctor
901 New York Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20001

DR. BILL MANN
JP Morgan Chase & Co.
DE1-1024
201 North Walnut Street
Wilmington, DE 19801

1Appeal 2006-2042
2Application 09/366,135
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1The above-entitled matter came on for hearing on Thursday, October 25,
22007, commencing at 9:00 a.m., at the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office,
3600 Dulany Street, 9th Floor, Hearing Room A, Alexandria, Virginia, before
4Lori B. Allen, Notary Public.

5 PROCEEDINGS
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7 JUDGE CRAWFORD: For your information, we have Judge Horner
8on the phone here.

9 MR. SCHREINER: Great.

10 JUDGE HORNER: Good morning.

11 JUDGE CRAWFORD: Would you like to introduce?

12 MR. SCHREINER: Yes. My name is Steve Schreiner and I'm from
13Goodwin Procter. I'm here with my colleague Carrie Owens from Goodwin
14Procter as well, and our client, Dr. Bill Mann from J.P. Morgan Chase.

15 Good morning. My name is Steve Schreiner. I'm from Goodwin
16Procter, and I'm here on behalf of our client, JP Morgan Chase Bank, in the
17appeal of patent application 09/366135, which is titled, "Network Based
18Financial Processing System." As I indicated earlier, I am joined with my
19colleague, Carrie Owens, and Dr. Bill Mann from JP Morgan Chase. I do
20have some copies of the independent claims in large font if it would be
21helpful to the members of the Board.

22 JUDGE CRAWFORD: I don't need it.

23 JUDGE FISCHETTI: Okay, thank you.

24 MR. SCHREINER: What I'd like to do is start out with a brief
25summary of the background of the invention, and then go directly into the

1claims and the elements or limitations in the claims that distinguish over the
2art of record.

3 The background problem at issue was that many financial institutions,
4especially those that had been involved in a series of mergers and
5acquisitions, would have a series of back-ends legacy financial account
6processing systems. So just by way of example in the case of Chase, at one
7point they had several different back-end, financial account processing
8systems, depository systems. And so you had this issue that as banks
9integrated and acquired different entities, you had all of these back-end
10legacy processing systems, and there is no single point where a bank could
11receive payment transactions and know which of these back-end processing
12systems they should be routed to.

13 So what you have in the prior art was that very often you would have
14a series of miscellaneous transactions or stray transactions, if you will. The
15spec talks about miscellaneous transactions that would be sent to an
16operator. So, for example, it could be somebody working in India, and they
17have all of these financial transactions. They don't know where they go,
18where they belong; and, so what they would have to do is a manual process
19of essentially accessing each back-end financial account process. So logging
20into it, then providing the account number to check, okay does this
21transaction belong with this back-end, financial account processor. No.
22Then you go to the next one and so forth.

23 And then once the proper back-end financial account processor was
24identified, that operator would then manually enter the information to
25process the transaction. So, you can imagine. It was a very laborious type
26of a process. So what the invention did was improve this process by

1creating a system where the operator could enter batches of financial
2transactions. So that's being multiple financial transactions, and these
3financial transactions would be ones that could be associated with different
4back-end processors.

5 So you would have a batch, and again, multiple transactions
6associated with different back-end processors. The operator could enter
7those and then there would be essentially an intermediary processor, which
8the application calls the parsing processor. So it's an intermediary parsing
9processor that would essentially receive this batch of transactions, do some
10validation and then examine the individual transactions within the batch to
11determine where these transactions should go. So that basically, examine
12those transactions, determine which back-end processors to route the
13individual transactions to.

14 So you can imagine how this approach brought significant benefit to
15the prior art approach where it was manual and where the operator really had
16to manually go and determine which of these back-end legacy processing
17systems should the transaction go to. So that's kind of an overview of the
18background of the art and the solution that was provided by the invention.

19 If you take a look at the claims, for example, referring to the appeal
20brief, claim 93, which is on page 18, you will see in fact that the claims
21reflect this approach that I just described in the solution. So there's a
22plurality of financial transaction accounting systems; so those in the back-
23end processor, as I referred to. And then in the second clause you can see
24that there's a group of transaction data sets where each transaction data set,
25and that's essentially the individual financial transactions. Each one is
26associated with a specific back-end financial accounting processor. And, in

1fact, the claim specifically calls out that at least two of those data sets or two
2of those financial transactions are associated with different back-end
3accounting processors.

4 So again, you see reflected in the claim, the idea that the operator
5could input this batch of multiple financial transactions, some of which are
6associated with this financial accounting processor, some of which are
7associated with this one, and so forth. And then continuing with the claim,
8you go to the first processing server and the second processing server, which
9essentially correspond to the parsing process that I described. So the first
10processing server is going to do some validation, and then focusing on one
11of the real points of novelty. The second processing server is going to parse
12the individual data set within the batch in order to send them to the
13appropriate, corresponding back-end data processor.

14 So essentially, you know, focusing then on the differences over the
15prior art, there's really two main things. The first is that you're entering a
16batch of financial transactions, and those financial transactions are ones that
17are associated with different back-end, financial account processors; and,
18secondly that you have this intermediate PARSER processor to be able to
19deal with these batches of transactions by validating them and then
20examining them and determining which ones go to which back-end
21processors.

22 If you look at the rejection, the rejection is defective in two, main
23respects. And I think it's notwithstanding the KSR developments that have
24occurred since the briefing in this case. The first is that the rejection fails to
25address the invention as a whole. It does not address the invention,
26including all limitations. And I think that's a requirement that lives beyond

1KSR. It's found in '103, the invention as a whole. It's reiterated in KSR
2itself as well as *Graham v. John Deere*. And the missing limitations that I
3just referred to, the batch of transactions associated with different back-end
4processors and the intermediate PARSER processor, neither of those is
5found in the art that's cited, either alone or in combination. Nor does the
6examiner make it a KSR-type argument to bridge the gap so to speak.

7 So to reiterate the first effect is that the rejection fails to address all
8claim limitations. The second defect with the rejection that makes it not a
9*prima facie* case of obviousness is that the primary reference of Campbell,
10which I'll talk to in a moment, teaches away from the combination with the
11secondary reference of Berger.

12 JUDGE CRAWFORD: Now what are the limitations you say are not
13addressed in the rejection?

14 MR. SCHREINER: Sure. The limitations that are not addressed, the
15examiner essentially gives kind of an omnibus-type rejection. He cites to
16certain sections in Campbell, which is the primary reference, and then he
17cites to certain sections in Berger, which is the secondary, but he never
18explains. But the examiner never explains how these two references are
19actually combined so as to arrive at the invention. So he doesn't provide the
20explicit rationale for how he gets from these two references, how he
21combines them and how he arrives at the claimed invention.

22 So he doesn't do that, and as I said, when you actually examine the
23claims, the two features that are in the claims that are not in the art are again
24batch processing of multiple transactions that are associated with different
25back-end processors.

26 JUDGE CRAWFORD: Isn't that in Campbell?

1 MR. SCHREINER: Well, what Campbell describes is batch-
2processing of identical transactions. So what Campbell talks about is you
3have a host computer; and, then you have a series of back-end mini-
4computers, if you will -- one associated with each of the, let's say, regional
5offices.

6 And what Campbell is really all about is it's a different problem. It's
7not about a routing system dealing with different legacy systems and so forth
8as I have described in connection with the present invention. Campbell is
9really concerned about duplication and redundancy of databases between
10this host computer that has a host dataset or shared data bank, and then
11redundancy with that with some local databases.

12 And what Campbell goes on to describe is that at one of these remote
13computers, you could input batch transactions. So, for example, he talks
14about you could input 12 payment transactions. But so, what we're talking
15about is there are 12 payment transactions all the same type, all input to the
16same minicomputer. The invention is talking about inputting a batched
17transaction in the transactions that are different and that would be routed to
18different back-end processors.

19 So it's a very different approach and, as I said, Campbell is really
20focused on sameness; you know, using the same databases that are
21redundant and that back-up one another. And similarly, Campbell talks
22about using a host computer that is duplicative or redundant with the
23minicomputers. And the minicomputers -- back-in minicomputers -- are also
24redundant. So again, you could see how the concept that Campbell is
25focused on really focuses away from the idea of having a series of different
26back-end processors that process different types of transactions.

1 So as I indicated, the two main defects is there's missing elements in
2the rejection, and the second is the teaching away concept, that Campbell
3teaches away both from the combination, with the secondary reference of
4Berber, as well as it teaches away from applicants' invention. And I'll go
5through those in a little more detail.

6 First, starting with Campbell just to give you a little bit more
7background on it. I touched on it. You know, Campbell is really talking
8about a distributed computer system that has a host computer and a series of
9remote computers; or, as Campbell calls them, minicomputers. There's a
10shared database up at the host computer and then each minicomputer which
11would be at regional office would have its own local database. And the idea
12is you would continually share and update the data between the local
13databases and this main databank at the host computer. And the
14minicomputers, which is really what's material if you will or relevant to the
15claimed invention is the minicomputers in Campbell. Well, the
16minicomputers, each are essentially to click it of one another; and Campbell
17explicitly describes how they're redundant and one could be used in place of
18the other.

19 JUDGE CRAWFORD: I thought they were regional minicomputers,
20and so that maybe the Virginia computer wouldn't have the same as the
21Maryland minicomputer.

22 MR. SCHREINER: Then functionality of Campbell's minicomputers
23is described in terms of, okay, this minicomputer would typically serve this
24region. So Campbell talks about minicomputer 1 serves 3 states.
25Minicomputer 2 serves 3 different states. So that's clearly there -- de facto
26place of operation or regional coverage. But Campbell goes on to explain

1that the minicomputers are completely redundant in functionality, so that if
2one minicomputer goes down, you can use a different minicomputer or you
3could even use the host.

4 But I think the really key thing, even going one step further beyond
5that is if you look at one of Campbell's many computers, and you isolate it,
6and you say okay. Here's the minicomputer and here is a batch of 12
7payment transactions going into that minicomputer which is what Campbell
8describes. He says, 12 to 15 payment transactions can go in there. They're
9all the same type of payment transaction. There's no routing to other types
10of back-end payment processors. That is remotely suggested in Campbell
11and again I would suggest that Campbell really teaches away from the idea
12of batch transactions involving multiple, different-types of transactions
13going to multiple, different back-end processors. The focus is on, you know,
14simplicity and redundancy.

15 JUDGE HORNER: But you've still got different databases in
16different regions with different information, different datasets in them,
17because the customers of region 1 are going to have different data associated
18with them than the customers of region 2. You're just saying that the
19functionality is redundant, not the data. Right?

20 MR. SCHREINER: Yeah, absolutely. I completely agree. The
21minicomputers in Campbell, you know, what they described. As I said,
22there's a shared databank, so that would be at the host and would have the
23data for everything in the system, all of the minicomputers. And each
24minicomputer would focus on, you know, I think it's described as you know
25A, B and C for minicomputer 1, and so forth.

1 But, again, I would suggest that the really relevant point is, you know,
2 what does Campbell do in terms of processing batch transactions; and, as I
3 said, Campbell is very unequivocal that the transactions are all identical
4 transactions. They all get input into one particular minicomputer. There is
5 no suggestion that those batches are different transactions that are going to
6 be routed to different places for different types of processing.

7 It's just simply not there in Campbell. So, to reiterate, what Campbell
8 is missing is the batch transactions of a series of financial transactions that
9 are associated with different back-end processors, as well as the intermediate
10 PARSER that is needed to deal with that sort of batched transaction. So
11 then we turn to the Berger patent, which is the secondary reference relied on
12 by the examiner, and the examiner essentially relied on Berger to show the
13 PARSER. And Berger for sure recites a parsing function in a couple of its
14 claims. But if we examine Berger in a little more detail, I think you'll see
15 that it doesn't cure the deficiencies of Campbell. So what Berger is really
16 directed to is a VeriFone, financial transaction processing system.

17 So you have a consumer computer, the consumer submits payments
18 transactions to a merchant computer that basically examines individual,
19 single financial transactions to decide how to reformat and forward those on
20 to a payment gateway. So the salient point I think is that Berger is a single
21 transaction processor. There's nothing in Berger suggesting you'd be
22 inputting batched transactions comprising multiple different transactions that
23 would go to multiple, different back-end processors.

24 And, secondly, the Parsing process or the intermediate Parsing
25 processor that we talked about in the claim that basically breaks down those
26 batches of transactions and routes them accordingly, etcetera, that is wholly

1missing from Berger. Again, Berger's single transaction, one-in and one-out,
2even the Parsing functionality that the examiner points to really is very
3different from what applicant claims. Berger's Parsing is a single message
4Parsing, so the claim talks about receiving a message, which means like a
5transaction request.

6 You swipe your card, and then it parses that single message to look,
7let's say, at a single sub-field, to decide how to reformat the message and so
8forth. What we're talking about in the claimed invention is parsing of a
9batch of multiple transactions to grab single transactions and route them to
10different places. So it's a different type of parsing.

11 JUDGE CRAWFORD: Now, you directed our attention to claim 93.
12What about claim 69? It doesn't have a lot of the specifics that you're
13talking about. It just says the parsing processing server. Isn't that shown in
14Berger?

15 MR. SCHREINER: No. I would suggest to the Board that claim 69
16does have these common features that I'm referring to, which again, are a
17batch of multiple, financial transactions, directed to different back-end
18processors, and the parsing processor that deals with the identification and
19routing of those.

20 So the first point, if you look at the third clause in the claim, we've got
21a group of transaction datasets. If you look at the specification, this is pretty
22much what's referred to or described as being a batch. I can direct you to the
23specification if need be. But we've got a group of transaction datasets, each
24being associated with this respective one of the financial transaction
25accounting systems. So what that's saying is that each financial transaction

1in the batch is associated with the specific one of the back-end, financial
2processors.

3 And then the claim goes a step further and says that at least two of
4those are different. So what that means is you've got a batch of financial
5transactions and at least two out of that batch are going to go the different
6back-end financial processors. So I think that captures the first fundamental
7distinction that I'm pointing out. And then the second is in the last clause.
8The parsing processing server determining if the group is correctly entered.
9That's a validation function. I'm not really focusing on that today, and if so,
10east transaction dataset is sent to that financial transaction accounting system
11with which it is associated.

12 So what that is saying is that the parsing processing server receives
13that batch and then looks at the individual transactions within the batch and
14then forward them to the appropriate back-end financial accounting
15processors that each one is associated with. And if I could turn now to just
16some more specific defects in the examiner's position, there are some
17refinements that were in the examiner's answer that were not contained in
18the final office action that is the subject of appeal here. And there are
19several defects.

20 On the issue of the failure of the rejection to show all claim
21limitations, if you look at the examiner's answer, he responds to that by
22showing that there's motivation. He cites to Campbell, the object of the
23invention in Campbell and then objects of the invention in Berger showing
24motivation, which of course doesn't address the issue that appellant raised,
25which is you haven't shown all of the claim elements. So in the examiner's

1answer he does not specifically respond to our point that he hasn't shown all
2claim limitations. You know, motivation misses the boat on that point.

3 On the issue of our point that the primary reference of Campbell
4teaching away with combination with secondary reference of Berger and
5also teaching away from appellants' invention, the examiner seems to
6confuse the doctrine of teaching away with the doctrine of non-analogous art
7and the doctrine of inoperativeness. So appellant pointed out that Campbell
8operates one way, and as directed to this sort of problem. And it would
9teach away from a combination with Berger as we discussed before. The
10examiner came back and cited the *W.L. Gore* case and what the examiner
11basically argued is that Campbell and Berger are analogous art; and,
12therefore, that refutes teaching away. And I would submit that as a matter of
13law those two things are distinct. I mean, you can have two pieces of art and
14they can be analogous. They can be in the same field; but, as we have seen
15in I think a number of cases, one of those pieces of prior art can certainly
16still teach away despite the fact that they are in the same field or analogous
17art.

18 So I think the examiner made an error of law there in addressing our
19point about teaching away. Secondly, he also talks about the concept of
20inoperativeness in response to our points about teaching away. And, again, I
21would submit that that is a separate issue -- inoperativeness -- that is
22separate from our point about teaching away. So in the end, we made two
23points: one being the examiner hasn't shown how we combine these, nor
24how they would show all of the claim limitations. He did not respond in his
25answer with something specifically addressing that point. He focused on
26that motivation. And then in our point about teaching away, the examiner

1did not rebut our points about teaching away. Instead, he came back and
2said teaching away if irrelevant because it's analogous art, and you haven't
3showed that it would be inoperative if combined.

4 JUDGE CRAWFORD: Thank you.

5 Judge Horner, do you have any more questions?

6 JUDGE HORNER: I don't. Thank you.

7 JUDGE CRAWFORD: Judge Fischetti?

8 JUDGE FISCHETTI: No. I don't.

9 JUDGE CAMPBELL: Thank you.

10 MR. SCHREINER: Thank you very much.

11 [The hearing was concluded.]